

REMARKS

The Examiner issued a restriction requirement mailed on February 28, 2005 (the “Restriction Requirement”). In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner identified two groups of claims, Group I including claims 1-29 and 50-58, drawn to a data structure stored on a computer media and a process for creating and managing a complex work order, and Group II including claims 30-49, drawn to a process for managing a complex work order.

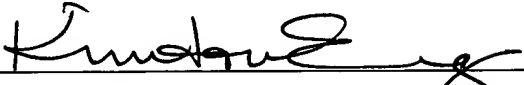
Group I, claims 1-29 and 50-58 have been provisionally elected with traverse.

The Restriction Requirement is improper because there are claims in both Group I and Group II that are directed to similar inventions. Namely, claims 19-29, which are included in Group I, are directed to a process for managing a complex work order. Claims 30-41 and 42-49 are similarly directed to a process for managing a complex work order that recite similar limitations. For example, claim 19 recites “identifying a work order as a complex work order; selecting a set of M member sub-orders associated with the complex work order where M is ≥ 1 ; relating the member sub-orders by a set of P precedence criteria, where P is > 0 , and where the precedence criteria identifies a predecessor sub-order to be started or completed prior to starting the member sub-order. Claim 30 recites the same limitations. Although a claim defines a combination of limitations, and the patentability of a claim is not based on a particular limitation or limitations, there are sufficient similarities between claims 19 and 30 to overcome the Examiner’s Restriction Requirement characterizing the inventions defined in Group I and Group II as being distinct. Thus, due to the similarities of the claimed inventions, the Examiner’s Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn.


As previously mentioned, if the Restriction Requirement is maintained, claims 1-29 and 50-58 of Group I have been elected for examination at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP



Kimton N. Eng
Registration No. 43,605



KNE:ajs

Enclosure:

Postcard

1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3400

Seattle, Washington 98101

Tele: (206) 903-8800

Fax: (206) 903-8820

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